



Arizona Game and Fish Department Wildlife Matters

September 2006

Volume IV,
Issue 9



Agency Liaisons

Legislative Liaison

Tony Guiles:

602-789-3280

aguiles@azgfd.gov

Ast. Legislative Liaison

Ben Alteneder:

602-789-3533

balteneder@azgfd.gov

Summer Tours Available!



Tours a Big Hit!

Summer Tours are heating up. Several members and staff have been exploring and learning about Arizona with the Game and Fish Department. A popular tour is our "Border Impact Tour" where we look at the impact of illegal immigration on wildlife habitat. Please come out and join us and learn more about the Department and our management of Arizona's wildlife. (*See below-contact the Department at 602-789-3533 for more information*)

Game and Fish Partners with public and landowners to preserve natural habitats

Because private landowners and the public are working together, some of the best examples of native habitats and at-risk species in Arizona are being saved for future generations. Through an Arizona Game and Fish Department program, the public is aiding landowners with many projects like restoring grasslands, creating wildlife water developments and cleaning up trash from ranches. These cooperative efforts have helped to open up public access to two million acres of federal or state lands previously closed by private landowners and unavailable to the public for outdoor recreation.

Since 2003, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has provided private landowners interested in developing and maintaining wildlife habitat on their property with financial and technical assistance through the Landowner Relations Program. Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) funds are one of the programs available to private landowners for habitat restoration projects that benefit species and habitats at risk. The funding helps landowners with wildlife habitat and ranch improvements, and in return, the public gets access to more land for outdoor activities like bird watching, fishing and off-highway vehicle use. Because of the commitment to enhance wildlife populations and habitats, residents, visitors and landowners are creating a strong working partnership through the idea of shared access.

One example of a property that has benefited from the program is Diablo Trust Ranches in northeast Arizona, which has completed almost 100,000



Robin's Butte



acres of grassland restoration since 1960 and is currently planning to restore another 80,000 acres. Because of this effort, the Diablo Trust was recently awarded a 2006 Environmental Stewardship Award by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and sponsors Dow AgroSciences, LLC, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The award recognizes those who showcase the stewardship and business practices that exist together on progressive farms and ranches. The Diablo Trust is a collaborative team that manages 426,000 acres of intermingled private, state and federal lands. Participants include ranchers, conservationist, federal and state land managers, scientists, recreationists, elected officials and other citizens.

"The Arizona Game and Fish Landowner Relations Program wants to help with more efforts like this. The program encourages the public and landowners to take an active conservation role and provides us with an important opportunity to address critical habitat needs," said Arizona Game and Fish Commissioner Michael M. Golightly, from Flagstaff. "We will continue to work closely with interested conservation partners like the Diablo Trust to protect and recover endangered, threatened and at-risk species and habitat."

The Arizona Game and Fish Department would like to encourage others to get involved in the Landowner Relations Program by volunteering to help with restoration and clean up projects or by seeing how your property might provide more access in exchange for benefits. If you would like more information on the program and LIP funds, please visit azgfd.gov.

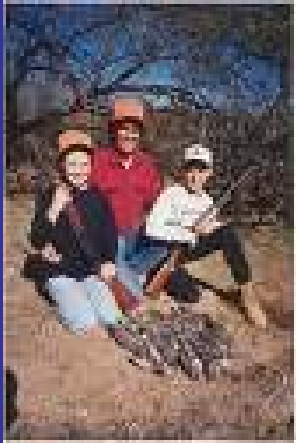
Robin's Butte "Juniors Hunt" introduces young people to the sport

PHOENIX – Young people interested in honing their hunting skills, or in just learning how to hunt, are invited to take part in an annual juniors dove hunt this Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 2 and 3, at the Robbins Butte Wildlife Area southwest of Buckeye. The event is sponsored by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Chandler Rod and Gun Club.

"The juniors hunt is a great opportunity for youth to learn how to hunt, or to pick up tips to help further their hunting skills," says Phil Smith, the Robbins Butte manager for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "The dove populations are abundant this year."

The juniors hunt is open to anyone 17 years of age and younger. No reservations are required, but young hunters and their mentors need to arrive at Robbins Butte by 4 a.m., which is when shooting stations will be assigned. Volunteers will be on hand to help mentor.

"Even if a kid, or his or her mom or dad, has never hunted before, we still encourage anyone with an interest in learning how to hunt to come out," says Smith. "We'll have volunteer hunter education instructors available to assist kids of all experience levels."



September Events



Youths from ages 14-17 must have a valid Arizona hunting license, and those age 16 and older must also purchase an Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp. Those under 14 can hunt without a license when accompanied by a licensed adult (the volunteer mentors will be licensed adults).

The Chandler Rod and Gun Club will provide a pancake and sausage breakfast for all the youth hunt participants at the wildlife area, and they will also conduct a raffle each day for a youth-model shotgun.

Participants are encouraged to pick up a copy of the 2006-2007 Arizona dove hunting regulations in advance of the hunt. The regulations are available at license dealers statewide or can be downloaded from the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Web site at azgfd.gov.

Robbins Butte is located about 40 miles west of Phoenix. Take I-10 to Highway 85, drive south on Highway 85 about eight miles, and follow the signs to the west for Robbins Butte. For more information, contact Robbins Butte Wildlife Area Manager Phil Smith at (602) 290-2237.

September Key Dates & Events

Sept. 2, 2006

9:30 a.m.

Dragonfly Walk

Ayer Lake and the various water features at Boyce Thompson Arboretum are ideal habitat for the intricate mosaic-pattered Blue-eyed Darner and various other dragonfly species. Learn to identify common species during a one-hour walk that begins at 9:30 a.m. from the Visitor Center lobby located in Superior, AZ. Bring binoculars! Daily park admission of \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for ages 5-12 includes this tour. Visit www.ag.arizona.edu/BTA for more information.

Sept. 3, 2006

3:00 p.m.

Free Junior Dove Hunt & Cookout

Free Juniors dove hunt for hunters 13-years-old and younger on private farm land south of Yuma. On-site registration starts at 3 p.m., with hunting from 4-7 p.m. Hunt is limited to the first 100 registered hunters. A hotdog cookout will follow at 7 p.m. Early registration forms and information are available from the Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club POC at (928) 314-3890.

Sept. 6, 2006

7:00 p.m.

Predator Calling Workshops

The Phoenix Varmint Callers will present their free annual "Introduction to Predator Calling Workshops" during their September monthly meeting at 12851 N. 19th Ave., in Phoenix. Topics to include: camouflage use and care, stand selection, calling sounds to use, safety and much more. For more information, visit www.pvci.org. Please contact Ed Murdock at

(602) 747-9019 if you have any questions

Sept. 12, 2006

6:30 p.m.

Game Management in Northern Arizona

The 2006 Wildlife Speaker Series is offering "Game Management in Northern Arizona," presented by Tim Holt. The presentation will be held at the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Flagstaff office located at 3500 South Lake Mary Road. Please call the Flagstaff Office at (928) 774-5045 to sign up.

Sept. 16, 2006

7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bye-Bye Buzzards

Get on the road early and head east if you want to see the summer resident flock of Turkey Vultures at Boyce Thompson Arboretum; the state park will open early at 7:00 a.m., so visitors may observe the birds from 7-8:30 a.m. Arrive later and you'll still see a real, live vulture courtesy of AZGFD volunteers who assist with wildlife rehab, and will have a living exhibit of birds, reptiles and mammals for visitors to see and photograph from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Daily park admission of \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for ages 5-12 includes events of "Bye Bye Buzzards" day. Visit ag.arizona.edu for more information.



Sept. 16, 2006

8:30 a.m.

Learn Your Lizards Guided Walk

Native lizards with brilliant blue bellies scamper across the trails at Boyce Thompson Arboretum during summertime to do comical pushups that display their abs of azure. Join AZGFD biologists Abi Dinsmore, Valerie Boyarski, Troy Corman and other guests for the final "Learn Your Lizards" guided tour of 2006. Kids will enjoy this family-friendly walk; it teaches why Arizona's charismatic little reptiles have blue bellies and other Sonoran Desert adaptations. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8:30 a.m.; bring binoculars if you have them and make sure to carry water and wear sunscreen and a hat. Daily park admission of \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for ages 5-12 includes this tour. Visit ag.arizona.edu for more information.

Sept. 23, 2006

9:30 a.m.

Butterflies of Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Bring along binoculars for the most dazzling display of colorful Butterfly species including Queen, Sulphur and Pipevine Swallowtail. This special guided outing is offered on the fourth Saturday each month with Education Coordinator Chris Kline, who will bring along his butterfly net and capture a few to allow kids a close up look at these insects during the tour. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:30 a.m. in Superior, AZ. Make sure to carry water and wear sunscreen and a hat. Daily park admission of \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for ages 5-12 includes this tour. Visit www.ag.arizona.edu/BTA for more information.



contact:
Ben Alteneder, Assistant Legislative Liaison
Arizona Game and Fish Department
602-789-3533
balteneder@azgfd.gov

*Department Staff have contributed to this publication in the form of
articles and photographs.*

September 1, 2006

Wildlife Matters
AZGFD Legislative Affairs Division